



Dear Representative Price,

Thank you for taking up SB 103 (S-4) in the House Education Committee. On behalf of the members of MASA and MAISA we urge you and the members of your committee to support SB 103 (S-4). The bill before you modifies the current law pertaining to teacher and administrative evaluations and needs to be in place before next school year in order to avoid serious personnel concerns.

The "Performance Evaluation System," as prescribed in this legislation, establishes a clear way to evaluate a teacher or administrator's job performance and provide constructive feedback. It also gives us a way to measure student growth and provide teachers and administrators with relevant data on growth. The provision requiring that only tools prescribed by the state be used is a significant change from last year's proposal; however, this modification is supported by the majority of local and intermediate school district superintendents in the state.

Adding local control into the evaluation process by taking into account cultural complexities and flexibility is a move in the right direction. The increased transparency coupled with the amount of information available from the Department of Technology Management, and Budget will give school boards the right choices.

Although not contingent upon our support, we also encourage any future modifications of the legislation to include additional flexibility on the state growth component as well as further clarity on training implementation.

The change in the law to require teacher and administrator evaluations is very important to us. We are in full support of SB 103 (S-4) and urge swift passage of the legislation.

Sincerely,

Chris Wigent  
Executive Director, MASA

William Miller  
Executive Director, MAISA